

\$1,375,526 was awarded under such grant towards the salaries and benefits of 12 entry-level officers

3. On March 8, 2023, the COPS Office released a solicitation for applications for the FY2023 COPS Hiring Program:
 - a) Assistance Listing #: 16.710
 - b) Grants.gov Opportunity: O-COPS-2023-171633
4. Circa April 17, 2023, ACCPD became aware of the FY2023 CHP award opportunity. Critically, to apply for this cycle's funding, the ACCPD must first apply in Grants.gov on, or before, May 4, 2023. All supporting materials must then be uploaded no later than May 11, 2023 at 4:59 P.M
5. On April 18, 2023, after reviewing the grant application guide, it was determined that it would be prudent to apply under the terms of the 2023 program, and the intent to apply for the grant was conveyed to managerial stakeholders.

FACTS & ISSUES:

1. The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program (CHP) is a competitive grant program designed to provide funding directly to law enforcement to hire and/or rehire additional career law enforcement officers in an effort to increase community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts.
2. In this award cycle, \$224.5 million was made available to the CHP program. Should the ACCPD be awarded funding, each award:
 - a) Will support up to 75% of each awarded position's entry-level salary and benefits for three years within a five-year period of performance to accommodate time needed for recruitment and hiring;
 - b) Will require a 25% local cash match (cost share) requirement, unless a waiver is approved; and
 - c) Will be capped at \$125,000 per position over the three-year period (or ~ \$41,666 officer/year) unless a local match waiver is approved.
**Note: ACCPD's FY23 base cost is ~ \$50,728 officer / year at 75% of cost.
3. Any additional costs beyond the entry-level caps for salaries and fringe benefits are the responsibility of the recipient agency (e.g., base entry-rate in excess of ~ \$41,666 per year). As such, an enhanced match of \$380,578 beyond the base 25% program match is required to fully fund the project.
4. The number of officers a department may request cannot exceed 20% of the actual full-time sworn force, up to 50 officers. As such, the ACCPD could request up to 50 officers with an authorized staffing of 256 officers. However, consistent with operational needs, and actual staffing, the ACCPD seeks only fourteen officer positions at this time.

5. Should the ACCPD be awarded fourteen positions, at current salary levels, one may anticipate:
 - a) Base Salary & Benefits ~ \$67,637 x 14 officers x 3 years = \$ 2,840,771
 - b) Grant Award (Adjusted) ~ \$41,666 x 14 officers x 3 years = \$ 1,750,000
 - c) Local Cash Match ~ \$25,970 x 14 officers x 3 years = \$ 1,090,771
 - i. Operational Contingency (Year 1 of Grant): \$ 330,631
 - ii. Approved Budget (Years 2 and 3 of Grant): \$ 760,140

6. ACCPD's staff have examined the manner in which additional officers may best address community / crime concerns in a tailored mode. Notably, in FY2023, there is an alignment between ACCPD operational needs and grantor priorities as additional consideration in the application review process will be given to applicants who propose a community-based approach to the following problem/focus areas:
 - a) Building Legitimacy and Trust;
 - b) Violent Crime (particularly gun violence); and
 - c) Police-Based Response to Persons in Crisis.

7. Given CHP Grant and ACCPD alignment of operational priorities, should a grant award be made available, the ACCPD proposes the assignment of up to four experienced officers in support of each problem/focus areas, once the newly hired CHP officers are assigned to patrol operations. Should an award of fourteen CHP officers be made, the remaining two officers would be assigned to the problem/focus area of greatest need, as determined by ACCPD operational metrics.

8. Funding, if awarded, would be available from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2028.

9. These recommendations support the following ACCGov Strategic Plan Goal & Strategy:
 - Good Neighbors Goal, Strategy C: *Decrease crime and keep residents safe through "community-centric" services.*

OPTIONS:

1. Mayor and Commission:
 - a) Approve submission of an application by the Athens-Clarke County Police Department (ACCPD) for the 2023 COPS Hiring Program (CHP);
 - b) Accept the grant funds if awarded;
 - c) Authorize the creation of up to 14 entry-level sworn officer positions, consistent with the grant award;
 - d) Adopt the attached budget ordinance (Attachment #1); and
 - e) Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to execute all documents associated with the grant.

2. Mayor and Commission deny approval for the COPS Hiring Program (CHP) grant, if awarded.
3. Mayor and Commission defined option.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Option #1: a, b, c, d and e.

DEPARTMENT:

Prepared by: Joshua Watkins



Jerry G. Saulters

05/10/2023

Date:

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION: Option #1: a, b, c, d and e

Manager

May 10, 2023

Date:

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment #1: FY24 Budget Ordinance

Attachment #1

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FY2024 ANNUAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET FOR ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA SO AS TO PROVIDE GRANT FUNDING, IF AWARDED, TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES HIRING PROGRAM GRANT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia hereby ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. The Commission of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia desires to amend the Grants Special Revenue Fund to provide grant funding, if awarded, to the Police Department from the U.S. Department of Justice - Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Program grant; and for other purposes.

Said Operating and Capital budget is hereby amended as follows:

General Fund:

EXPENDITURES:

Decrease:

Other General Administration	
Operating Contingency	\$330,631

Increase:

Transfers to Grant Special Revenue Fund	\$330,631
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Grants Special Revenue Fund:

REVENUES:

Increase:

COPS Hiring Program (CHP) Grant	\$1,750,000
Transfers from General Fund	<u>\$330,631</u>
	\$2,080,631

EXPENDITURES:

Increase:

Police Department:	
Personal Services	\$2,080,631

(Note: Fulltime Authorized positions in the Police Department would increase by up to 14 sworn officers)

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.